

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03628 230607Z

12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 205

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3628

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, KS
SUBJECT: POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY U.S. COMPANIES IN KOREA

REF: STATE 119478

1. EMBASSY HAS NO REPEAT NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY US FIRMS OTHER THAN GULF. IN PARTICULAR, WE UNAWARE OF ANY CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY FIRMS NAMED PARA 1 REFTEL.

2. CONCERNING DEFENSE FUND, CONTRIBUTIONS BY KOREAN FIRMS, INDIVIDUALS AND SOME FOREIGNERS HAVE BEEN LISTED DAILY IN KOREAN PRESS WITH AMOUNTS SPECIFIED. WE HAVE NOT NOTICED GM OR OTHER FOREIGN FIRMS IN ANY OF VARIOUS LISTS, BUT THESE LISTS DO NOT PURPORT TO BE ALL-INCLUSIVE. WHILE CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPOSED TO BE VOLUNTARY, IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT PRESSURE IS BEING PUT ON BUSINESS FIRMS TO CONTRIBUTE. IN ADDITION, SINCE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ANNOUNCED SPECIFICALLY HOW MONEY BEING USED THERE ARE SOME SUSPICIONS, PARTICULARLY AMONG OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS, THAT AT LEAST SOME OF IT WILL BE USED FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN DEFENSE. IN ANY EVENT, CAMPAIGN IS BEING GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY AS VOLUNTARY MEASURE TO AID TO DEFENSE OF COUNTRY, AND WE DOUBT THAT CONTRIBUTIONS BY US FIRMS COULD
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 03628 230607Z

BE CONSIDERED ILLEGAL.

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Message Attributes

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